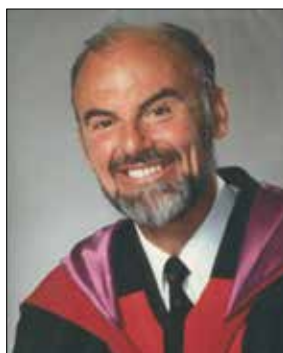


Peter Herbert Beighton: The man behind the Festschrift



Prof. Peter Beighton was born in England in 1934 and qualified in medicine at St. Mary's Hospital, University of London in 1957. After a series of internships, he completed his National Service as a Captain in the Royal Army Medical Corps, then as a Medical Officer in the Parachute Regiment and with the United Nations forces during the Congo crisis. In 1962, he began his training in internal medicine at St. Thomas' Hospital, London and from 1968 to 1969 he held a research fellowship in clinical genetics at the Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, USA. He subsequently undertook investigations in the Sahara desert and epidemiologic studies on Easter Island and in Southern Africa.

He was appointed as Professor of Human Genetics in the Faculty of Medicine, University of Cape Town (UCT) in 1972, and from 1983 - 1998 he was also Director of the Medical Research Council (MRC) Unit for Medical Genetics. He is a fellow and former vice-president of the Royal Society of South Africa, and a former chairman of the South African Human Genetics Society. Prof. Beighton's research has involved inherited disorders of the skeleton and connective tissues, together with genetic conditions that cause physical, hearing and visual disabilities. In the early stages of his

career, he received Fulbright and Oppenheimer fellowships, and his contributions were subsequently recognised by the award of the gold medal of the British Orthopaedic Association, the President's Medallion of the South African Orthopaedic Association, the Smith & Nephew Literary Award, and the silver medal of the South African MRC. He has also been accorded fellowships of UCT and the British Society of Rheumatology. In 1999, he obtained the degree of Master of Philosophy in History, by thesis, at the University of Lancaster, UK.

Prof. Beighton retired with emeritus status at the end of 1999, retaining his links with UCT, and collaborating with the Faculty of Dentistry, University of the Western Cape. In 2002, he received the Order of Mapungubwe in Bronze from President Thabo Mbeki, for outstanding achievements in medical genetics. He is still active at UCT in 2016, with the additional status of Senior Scholar.

Fourteen of Emeritus Prof. Beighton's postgraduate students have been awarded doctorates, and nine of these have achieved professorial or associate professorial status. Prof. Beighton is the author or co-author of 20 monographs and editions, 30 chapters and more than 400 medical publications.

Adapted from:

http://www.humangenetics.uct.ac.za/hg/division/staff/principal/peter_beighton#sthash.KMq5BZCL.dpuf